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~~controlling the printing such that double-sided or single-sided printing of
the image is performed in accordance with the stored sheet processing information.~~

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 16 to 36; Claims 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and 36 are independent. Claims 1 to 15 have been canceled. Claims 16 to 36 are newly presented.

In the Official Action dated March 21, 2001, Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, the cancellation of those claims renders this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 13 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,419 (Yaguchi, et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, this rejection is also moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The present invention relates to a novel image processing apparatus and method. In one aspect, as recited in independent Claim 16, the present invention is directed to an image processing apparatus comprising a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium having image data and sheet processing information stored therein, a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet in accordance with the image

data stored in the detachable storage medium, and a controller that controls the printer so that the image is printed in accordance with the stored sheet processing information.

Independent Claims 23 and 30 are directed to a method and a recording media, respectively, that recite features generally corresponding to the apparatus features recited in independent Claim 16.

Independent Claim 22 is directed to an image processing apparatus comprising a loading unit that receives a detachable storage medium, having image data and sheet processing data (indicating whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to be performed by the printer) stored therein, a printer that prints an image on a recording sheet in accordance with stored image data, and a controller that controls the printer so that the stored image is printed in accordance with the stored processing information.

Independent Claims 29 and 36 are directed to a method and a recording media, respectively, that recite features corresponding generally to the apparatus features recited in independent Claim 22.

Applicants submit that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Yaguchi, et al. patent relates to an image storing and retrieval apparatus that uses a mark sheet to facilitate the selection of images. However, Applicants submit that the subject patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above recited features of the present invention. Nowhere does the Yaguchi, et al. patent disclose or suggest the use of

sheet processing information stored in a detachable storage medium, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 16, 23, and 30). Nor does the Yaguchi, et al. patent disclose or suggest the use of a detachable storage medium having stored therein information as to whether double-sided or single-sided printing is to be performed by a printer, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 22, 29, and 36).


For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 16, 22, 23, 29, 30, and 36 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 17 to 21, 24 to 28, and 31 to 35 depend from the above-described independent claims, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective independent base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Harper", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO

30 Rockefeller Plaza

New York, New York 10112-3801

Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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